

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are all the claims pending in the application. New claims 14-19 have been added to further define the invention. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Drawings

The Examiner asserted that Figures 10-12 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. Accordingly, Applicants have labeled Figures 10-12 as --Prior Art--. In this regard, two replacement drawing sheets (7/8 and 8/8) have been submitted herewith.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 11, and 13, under §112, 2nd paragraph, as indefinite. The Examiner noted specific instances of alleged indefiniteness in item 3 on pages 3-4 of the Office Action. Applicants have amended claims 2, 4, 6, and 8, in a manner believed to overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 13, under §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,693,174 to Nakata et al. (hereinafter Nakata). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Nakata fails to disclose all of the elements as set forth in the claims.

Claim 1 sets forth a method for preparing a windowpane with a frame, comprising relatively moving a pressing member with respect to the windowpane along a peripheral portion of the windowpane so as to forcibly fit a shaped product to at least one surface of the peripheral portion of the windowpane, wherein there is provided a pressing roller in a floating frame located so as to be vertically movable with respect to the pressing member ... and unifying the frame to

the peripheral portion of the windowpane by forcibly fitting the shaped product to the peripheral portion of the windowpane by means of the pressing roller.

Thus, according to one embodiment of the invention, there is provided a pressing roller in a floating frame located so as to be vertically movable during the pressing operation which forcibly fits the shaped product to at least one surface of the peripheral portion of the windowpane so as to unify the frame to the windowpane. Because the floating frame is located so as to be vertically movable with respect to the pressing member, the floating frame can move vertically when there is a size deviation or a variation in the curved shape of the pane. Specifically, the floating frame can rapidly adapt its follow-up motion in a floating state if there is a size deviation or a variation in the curved shape of the pane. Thus, the shaped product can be unified to the peripheral portion of the pane at a constant equal pressure without causing a variation in the adhesion force. As a result, the adhesion force of the frame to the pane can be ensured, and the unified frame can have a good appearance.¹

In contrast to that set forth in claim 1, Nakata discloses a pressing member 50, wherein a pressing roller 53 is disposed in a support member 53b that may be retracted to an inactive position, and advanced to an active position by a cylinder 59. See, for example, Fig. 13. In the inactive position, wherein the support member 53b and the roller 53 are retracted from the windowpane, the roller 53 does not press the molding 2 onto the glazing 1 so as to unify the molding 2 to the glazing 1. See, for example, col. 7, lines 6-18. It is only when the roller 53 is advanced that it presses the molding 2 to the glazing 1. But when in the advanced position, the support member 53b does not appear to be vertically movable. Stated another way, the support member 53b does not float so as to follow a size deviation in the glazing when in the advanced position and, therefore, is not a floating frame as set forth in claim 1.

Claim 5 sets forth a method for preparing a windowpane with a frame, comprising relatively moving a pressing member with respect to the windowpane along a peripheral portion of the windowpane so as to forcibly fit a shaped product to at least one surface of the peripheral

¹ Specification at page 12, line 13 - page 13, line 8.

portion of the windowpane, wherein there is provided a lower pressing roller and a vertical wall roller in a floating frame located so as to be vertically movable with respect to the pressing member ... and unifying the frame to the peripheral portion of the windowpane by forcibly fitting the shaped product to the peripheral portion of the windowpane by means of the lower pressing roller.

Claim 8 sets forth an apparatus for preparing a windowpane with a frame, comprising a pressing member and a drive device for relatively moving the pressing member with respect to the windowpane along a peripheral portion of the windowpane so as to forcibly fit a shaped product to at least one surface of the peripheral portion of the windowpane, wherein the pressing member includes a base frame, a floating frame provided inside the base frame through an elastic member so as to be vertically movable with respect to the base frame, and a pressing roller provided inside the floating frame, wherein the shaped product is forcibly fitted to the peripheral portion of the windowpane by the pressing roller to be unified to the peripheral portion of the windowpane.

Claim 10 sets forth an apparatus for preparing a windowpane with a frame, comprising a pressing member and a driving device for relatively moving the pressing member with respect to the windowpane along a peripheral portion of the windowpane so as to forcibly fit a shaped product to at least one surface of the peripheral portion of the windowpane, wherein the pressing member includes a base frame, a floating frame provided inside the base frame through an elastic member so as to be vertically movable with respect to the base frame, as well as a lower pressing roller and a vertical wall roller provided inside the floating frame, wherein the shaped product is forcibly fitted to the peripheral portion of the windowpane by the lower pressing roller and the vertical wall roller to be unified to the peripheral portion of the windowpane.

In contrast to that set forth in claims 5, 8, and 10, Nakata discloses a pressing member 50, wherein a pressing roller 53 is disposed in a support member 53b that may be retracted to an inactive position, and advanced to an active position by a cylinder 59. However, the support member 53b does not float so as to follow a size deviation in the glazing when in the advanced position and, therefore, is not a floating frame as set forth in claims 5, 8, and 10.

For at least any of the above reasons, Nakata fails to anticipate claims 1, 5, 8, and 10. Likewise, this reference fails to anticipate dependent claims 2, 6, 12, and 13.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3, 7, and 9 are allowed. Further, because claims 4 and 11 were subject only to rejection under §112, 2nd paragraph, and this rejection is believed to have been overcome by the above-noted amendments, these claims should now also be allowed.

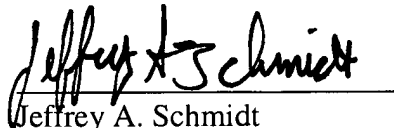
Conclusion

Claims 14-19 have been added to further define the invention. Claims 14-19 depend from claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, and 10, respectively, and therefore should be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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